

<<新编英美国家社会与文化>>

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前言

“英美国家概况”课程是为高等学校英语专业学生开设的专业知识必修课。按照教育部21世纪我国高等学校英语专业人才的培养目标和要求，在打好扎实的英语语言基本功和牢固掌握英语专业知识的前提下，要拓宽学生的人文学科知识，扩大知识面，对西方不同的政治、经济、文化、历史和科技教育等有较全面的了解，其中重点是对英国和美国国情的梳理和掌握。同时，注重培养学生独立思考、分析问题、解决问题的能力 and 创新能力，培养学生跨文化交际意识和能力，提高思想道德素质、文化素养，并对今后从事英美问题的研究打下坚实的基础。

一直以来，在这样一门重要课程的教材选择方面，存在着诸多难点：1.由于“英美国家概况”课程的知识覆盖面广，涉及历史、政治、经济、文化等方方面面，所选教材在内容上应做到有详有略，既全面翔实，又重点突出。

2.英美两国在政治、地域、风俗等方面与中国有很大差异，这种差异会对学生的认知和理解造成一定的困难。

教材编写者应充分考虑到这种客观存在的文化差异，并在编排上加以妥善考虑。

3.英文版的教材中存在大量历史事件、地理位置等专有名词和术语，这对于学生的英文水平是一个很大的挑战。

教材的语言在地道通畅外还应做到难易适中。

4.网络时代，学习方式呈多样化，教材的内容不应显得过于陈旧，应能满足网络时代的学习需求。

为此，我们组织国内诸多高校的一线“英美国家概况”课程教师，从实际授课需求出发，在他们多年教学经验的基础上，编写了《新编英美国家社会与文化》（英文版）一书。

本书充分考虑了以上提及的问题，综合考量了教师的教学需要和学生的学习需求，对于应该让中国学生掌握的英美国家社会文化知识作了详尽介绍，而对一些只需要了解的知识简要介绍，使教材在有限的篇幅里较为全面地向中国学生展示“尽可能真实的英国和美国”。

本教材既可作为大中专院校相关课程的教材，满足人才培养需求，也可以作为英语爱好者的普及性读物。

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内容概要

：“英美国概况”课程是为高等学校英语专业学生开设的专业知识必修课。按照教育部21世纪我国高等学校英语专业人才的培养目标和要求，在打好扎实的英语语言基本功和牢固掌握英语专业知识的前提下，要拓宽学生的人文学科知识，扩大知识面，对西方不同的政治、经济、文化、历史和科技教育等有较全面的了解，其中重点是对英国和美国国情的梳理和掌握。同时，注重培养学生独立思考、分析问题、解决问题的能力 and 创新能力，培养学生跨文化交际意识和能力，提高思想道德素质、文化素养，并对今后从事英美问题的研究打下坚实的基础。

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Situated in Northern Europe, lying to the north of France and the west of the Netherlands and Denmark, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the UK for short) is made up of four parts known as England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, whose capital cities, respectively are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. Each of the four parts demonstrates its own geographical characteristics in terms of land forms, of which the most famous ones are the Pennines, Lake District, Grampian Range, etc. The UK is also one country possessing many rivers, some of which provide irrigation, and few navigation. It is well worth mentioning that the Thames River and the Clyde River are respectively the most important rivers in England and Scotland. As an island country, Britain has a long but irregular coastline. The gentler eastern coastline consists mainly of limestone and chalk cliffs, among which the most famous are the White Cliffs of Dover. As for the British climate, 3 characteristics can be summarized. The first is uncertainty and changeability~ the second is much precipitation, and the last one is mildness. Small as its territory is, the UK is relatively rich in such natural resources as coal, oil, natural gas, limestone, iron, tin and water resources as well. The population of the United Kingdom is 60,209,500 (2005 estimates) , England being the part with the largest population compared with the other 3 parts of the UK. English is the most widely spoken language in this country, but Gaelic and Welsh are also popular languages respectively in Scotland and Wales. In their daily lives and work, British people show the world four features of their personalities, arrogance, conservativeness, sense of humor and politeness.

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